

AUTOMATED CONTENT PUBLISHING

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method of operating a computer system as well as to a computer system comprising at least one content provider which is coupled to a portal which may be coupled to a user.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

If a new content provider wants to offer a new content to a portal or if a known content provider wants to offer a new feed or channel to the portal, then it is necessary that the portal examines the new content provider or the new feed or channel. In known computer systems, this examination is performed manually, i.e. by an administrator who is a real person and who checks the new content provider or the new feed or channel and who then accepts or rejects the new content provider or the new feed or channel. Apparently, this procedure requires a lot of manual effort.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an aspect of the invention to provide a method of operating the computer system which requires less effort for allowing the new content provider to offer the new content to the portal and for allowing the known content provider to offer the new feed or channel to the portal.

1 The invention provides an automated method of registering a new content provider. As
2 well, a new feed or channel of a known content provider may be registered automatically.
3 For that purpose, the portal comprises a database for storing credentials of registered
4 content providers. The portal then compares the credentials of the new content provider
5 with the credentials of the registered content providers. If the new content provider is
6 found in the database, the new content provider is allowed to offer new content to the
7 portal.

8 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

9 These and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention will become
10 apparent upon further consideration of the following detailed description of the invention
11 when read in conjunction with the following drawing figures, in which:

12 Fig. 1 shows an example computer system in accordance with the invention; and

13 Fig. 2 shows an example of a schematic block diagram of a method of operating the
14 computer system of Fig. 1, in accordance with the invention.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

16 The present invention provides methods, systems and apparatus for operating a computer
17 system requiring less effort in allowing a new content provider to offer content to a
18 portal, and/or for allowing a known content provider to offer a new feed or channel to the
19 portal with old and/or new content.

1 The invention also provides an automated method of registering the new content provide,
2 and provides for a new feed or channel of a known content provider to be registered
3 manually and/or automatically. In an example embodiment, the portal includes a database
4 for storing credentials of registered content providers. The portal then compares the
5 credentials of the new content provider with the credentials of the registered content
6 providers. If the new content provider is found in the database, the new content provider
7 is allowed to offer new content to the portal. If there is no match, the portal examines the
8 credentials of the new content provider. This evaluation may be performed fully
9 automatically by an intelligent program with a rule database. Alternatively or
10 additionally, the evaluation may be done semi- automatically by an administrator who is a
11 real person. Depending on the evaluation, the portal accepts or rejects the new content
12 provider. A similar procedure may be performed for a new feed or channel of a known
13 content provider.

14 A similar procedure may be performed with respect to the new content which is offered
15 by the new content provider or on the new feed or channel. In this situation, the new
16 content may be evaluated fully automatically by an intelligent program again or
17 semi-automatically by an administrator.

18 Furthermore, it is possible that the portal learns the preferences of the user from what the
19 user selects and declines. Depending on these preferences, it is possible to notify the new
20 content or the new feed or channel automatically to the user.

21 Figure 1 shows a computer system 10 comprising a number of content providers 11, 12,
22 13 and a portal 14. The content providers 11, 12, 13 provide any kind of content like
23 news, whether, stock quotes and so on. The portal 14 collects this content from the
24 content providers 11, 12, 13 in order to forward the collected content to a requesting user.
25 The content providers 11, 12, 13 and the portal 14 are located on server computers which

1 run under the Hypertext Transmission Protocol (HTTP) so that the content providers 11,
2 12, 13 and the portal 14 may therefore connect to each other via the Internet.

3 It is now assumed that the content provider 13 is a new content source for the portal 14,
4 i.e. is not yet known to the portal 14. In order to offer this new content source to the users,
5 the portal 14 must first register the new content provider 13 and must then check the
6 content provided by the new content provider 13.

7 Figure 2 shows a method for registering the new content provider 13 and for checking the
8 content provided by the new content provider 13. For that purpose, the new content
9 provider 13 is shown in Figure 2.

10 The new content provider 13 may find the portal 14 e.g. with the help of the Universal
11 Description, Discovery and Integration (UDDI) interface which the portal 14 provides in
12 the Internet. From this UDDI interface, the new content provider 13 may collect all
13 necessary information on how to contact the portal 14.

14 Then, the new content provider 13 contacts a content provider registration 15 at the portal
15 14 and sends its credentials to the portal 14. The credentials of the new content provider
16 13 are compared to the credentials of the registered content providers which are stored in
17 a database 16 in the portal 14. As the new content provider 13 is not known to the portal
18 14, no corresponding credentials can be found. Therefore, an administrator 17 has to
19 approve the new content provider 13.

20 The aforementioned administrator 17 can be a real person who checks the credentials of
21 the new content provider 13 and then accepts or rejects the new content provider 13. As
22 well, the administrator 17 can be an intelligent program with a rule database which
23 automatically checks the credentials of the new content provider 13 and establishes a

1 decision whether to accept or reject the new content provider 13. Of course, the last-
2 mentioned fully automated version can additionally be accomplished by a real person.

3 If the new content provider 13 is approved by the administrator 17, the credentials of the
4 new content provider 13 are stored in the database 16 of the registered content providers
5 credentials. Furthermore, an authentication and authorization 18 is given to the new
6 content provider 13 to provide its content to the portal 14.

7 It should be added that the subsequently described procedure is also applicable if the
8 content provider 13 would not be new, but would be known to the portal 14.

9 With the help of a publish service 19 of the portal 14, the content provider 13 sends
10 information to the portal 14 concerning the new content which the content provider 13
11 can offer and which therefore can be published by the portal 14. This information is
12 stored in a portal content queue 20 in the portal 14.

13 The administrator 17 then checks the information stored in the portal content queue 20
14 and accepts or rejects the new content offered by the content provider 13. This evaluation
15 of the new content is performed within a content management 21 in the portal 14. The
16 accepted new content of the content provider 13 is then stored in a portal content
17 catalogue 22. Furthermore, a message of the decision of the administrator 17 is sent to the
18 content provider 13. It is noted that the administrator 17 can be a real person in a
19 semi-automated version and/or an intelligent program in a fully automated version.

20 The entire available content of the portal 14 is then assembled into a portal configuration
21 23. A user 24 may then select any desired content from this portal configuration 23. The
22 selected content is requested by the user 24 from the content provider 13 which sends the
23 requested content with the help of a portlet 25 as a portal aggregation 26 to the user 24.
24 The user 24 may then view the requested portal aggregation 26 on his/her computer

1 system. The communication between the user 24 and the portal 14 may be performed via
2 the Internet so that a known browser is sufficient for the user 24 to view the content
3 received from the portal 14.

4 Alternatively or additionally, a notification service may be established within the portal
5 14. For that purpose, a database 27 may be built up which learns the preferences of the
6 user 24 from what the user 24 selects and declines. If the new content of the content
7 provider 13 is added to the portal configuration 23, a message may be sent to the user 24
8 if this new content matches with the preferences of the user 24. The user 24 may then
9 access the new content without having to find and select the new content in the portal
10 configuration 23.

11 The same method may be used for introducing a new feed or channel of a known content
12 provider 11, 12, 13 into the portal content catalogue 23 and the portal configuration 24.
13 For this purpose, the database 16 may comprise further credentials concerning the feeds
14 or channels of the content providers 11, 12, 13. The credentials of any new feed or
15 channel is then added to the database 16.

16 The present invention can be realized in hardware, software, or a combination of
17 hardware and software. A visualization tool according to the present invention can be
18 realized in a centralized fashion in one computer system, or in a distributed fashion where
19 different elements are spread across several interconnected computer systems. Any kind
20 of computer system - or other apparatus adapted for carrying out the methods and/or
21 functions described herein - is suitable. A typical combination of hardware and software
22 could be a general purpose computer system with a computer program that, when being
23 loaded and executed, controls the computer system such that it carries out the methods
24 described herein. The present invention can also be embedded in a computer program
25 product, which comprises all the features enabling the implementation of the methods

described herein, and which - when loaded in a computer system - is able to carry out these methods.

Computer program means or computer program in the present context include any expression, in any language, code or notation, of a set of instructions intended to cause a system having an information processing capability to perform a particular function either directly or after conversion to another language, code or notation, and/or reproduction in a different material form.

Thus the invention includes an article of manufacture which comprises a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a function described above. The computer readable program code means in the article of manufacture comprises computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the steps of a method of this invention. Similarly, the present invention may be implemented as a computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing a a function described above. The computer readable program code means in the computer program product comprising computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect one or more functions of this invention. Furthermore, the present invention may be implemented as a program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for causing one or more functions of this invention.

It is noted that the foregoing has outlined some of the more pertinent objects and embodiments of the present invention. This invention may be used for many applications. Thus, although the description is made for particular arrangements and methods, the intent and concept of the invention is suitable and applicable to other arrangements and applications. It will be clear to those skilled in the art that modifications to the disclosed embodiments can be effected without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

1 The described embodiments ought to be construed to be merely illustrative of some of
2 the more prominent features and applications of the invention. Other beneficial results
3 can be realized by applying the disclosed invention in a different manner or modifying the
4 invention in ways known to those familiar with the art.

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